

# NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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## The Abolition Journal and the Slavery Question.

The anti-slavery organs of the North, though considerably paralyzed by the recent movements of the Know Nothings, and the late defeat of the free soil emigration society squatters in the Territory of Kansas, still favor us with an occasional Jeremiad upon the horrible institution of Southern slavery in a social or political view.

The latest exposition of this kind is founded upon certain statistics from a supplemental of the census, and is published, from which it appears that the slaveholders and slaves in the Southern States may be summed up as follows:—

Slaves.	Ag. No.
Slaves of 1 slave.	58,320
Slaves of 2 and under 5.	100,853
Slaves of 6 and under 10.	80,668
Totals.	239,841

Slaves of 10 and under 20.

Slaves of 20 and under 50.

Slaves of 50 and under 100.

Slaves of 100 and under 200.

Slaves of 200 and under 500.

Slaves of 500 and under 1,000.

Slaves of 1,000 and over.

Totals.

Grand totals.

It is assumed that some 80,000 of these slaveholders, or less than one-fourth of the whole number, control the politics of the South and of the general government—the South controlling the North at Washington through the said eighty thousand slaveholders.

We have no doubt that many deluded people on the slavery question will read over the above statistics, and the estimate deduced from them, with sensations of surprise, mortification and shame—with surprise that the destinies and policy, foreign and domestic, of this mighty republic of twenty-five millions of souls, are managed by eighty thousand slaveholders; and with sensations of mortification and shame that the free North should tamely consent to this most extraordinary slaveholding despotism. Our credulous Northern anti-slavery fanatics, shocked at the social depravities of Southern slavery as they have received them, will be puzzled to know how such a degrading and demoralizing institution can wield such unlimited power among a people so intelligent and free as the millions that are required to give shape and direction to our political affairs.

Let us briefly look into this. If Southern slavery were the horrible institution depicted by the abolition journals, and if Southern slaveholders were the ungodly aristocracy of semi-savages they are represented to be, their influence in our national affairs, would indeed be wonderful and shameful. But the "peculiar institution" of the South, though a more fixed and definite form of slavery than the servitude of the North, is practically, if the census may be relied upon, far less deplorable in its results. So, too, if Southern slaveholders constitute an all-powerful aristocracy in their section, we have an aristocracy in the North even more despotic and powerful. It is the same thing in another form—an aristocracy of capital. In the South the capitalists are slaveholders—in the North they are bankers, financiers, manufacturing and other corporations. In the South, the institution of slavery and the affairs of the slaveholding aristocracy work regularly, smoothly, and comparatively free from those dreadful fluctuations between capital and labor which in the North, are so productive of suffering and crime.

As between Southern slavery and Northern servitude let us take for example a cotton factory at Lowell and a Georgia cotton plantation. In the vitiated atmosphere of the factory the operatives work some fourteen hours per day—on the cotton plantation the slaves labor in the wholesome air of the open fields from sun to sun, with liberal intervals for rest and refreshment. If the factory operatives become dissatisfied for service—alas! too frequently—no other alternative is left the poor unfortunate than the almshouse or starvation. If the plantation slave becomes dissatisfied from accident, or from disease, or the infirmities of age, he has a lien upon his master's plantation, and is provided for. His health and his master's interest go together. Such as these are among the practical differences between Northern servitude and Southern slavery. But the most striking difference is in this—that the cotton factory shortens the life of the operative, while the laborer upon the Southern plantation not unfrequently survives to the good old age of a hundred years.

Look we at the working, in the aggregate, of the Southern as compared with the Northern system of servitude, and that of the South presents itself in a still more favorable light. The corporation of a cotton factory fails, a thousand poor people are instantly thrown out of employment, many with families, and most of them with no other means than their daily labor for their daily bread. Our money market is tight—very tight—the work on roads and canals, and in manufacturing and all business operations, is fearfully reduced. Thousands of laboring people are thus thrown out of work, the most prudent among them having scarcely more than the scanty savings of the last summer for the winter's subsistence. And this is not the worst of it. The worst is yet to come. But, even as it is, we venture to say that there is more positive suffering, more distress and crime, resulting from the evils of destitution alone, among the poor of this city of New York with its seven hundred thousand souls, than can be found among all the three millions and five hundred thousand slaves of the South from all causes combined.

There is no conflict between the slaveholding aristocracy of the South and their laborers. Their interests are blended, and they work harmoniously together. There is a continual conflict between capital and labor in the North, and continual fluctuations in the money market, resulting from shipmaster inflations or contractions, invariably producing ruin and misery to the working classes, from which all classes in the South—whites and blacks—are comparatively exempt. Our penitentiaries and jails, asylums and almshouses, are filled to overflowing—thousands of men, women and children are perishing around us for want of bread, while our merchants are exporting it abroad. All these things are the practical results of the struggle between capital and labor—between the employers and their workmen in the North, inevitably weakening the laborer and strengthening the capitalist as his merciless master. These evils of the Northern social system, as compared with capital and labor, are rapidly, and, just now, fearfully increasing, while in the South the relations between master and slave secure to the latter food and raiment, though the crops of the

## plantation be consumed by fire, or sink in the sea without a trace.

We apprehend that there are many among our anti-slavery people who will cease to regard the institution of South slavery as a "peculiar" and "barbarous" institution. Next they will cease to wonder at the political influence wielded by the slaveholders of the South. They will very readily understand the maintenance of their social system. Its protection is guaranteed by the North in the federal constitution, and thus they of the South seek to maintain it. Nothing more. Whatever political influence they may have is legitimately exercised for the great object of a self-preservation against Northern fanaticism, demagogues and traitors. We on your part of late too many Southern men have been overlooking this great duty in the enjoyment of the spoils of the administration. We are dealing with Northern anti-slavery organs. Will they descend, with at least a show of justice, to give us the benefit of their philosophy concerning the political influence of the aristocracy of capital in the North, and its practical social results as compared with the slaveholding aristocracy of the South?

We have been looking into these statistics of the census, and commend the attention of our anti-slavery organs to the comparative figures respecting crime and pauperism in the North and the South. Between Uncle Tom in his cabin and the free Northern working man without employment, driven to the almshouse from want, or perishing in a filthy cellar with his family, because he can get no work, he at least may think that Uncle Tom has the best of it. Let our anti-slavery organs pursue their researches among the statistics of the census. We only insist upon it that they shall not run over all the beggars in our streets to preach their hollow sympathy for Uncle Tom. Nothing more.

FLAGG'S DEFENSE.—We publish elsewhere a long story written by Controller Flagg in defense of his recent conduct and in reply to the strictures to which it has given rise. The point thereof is that Comptroller Flagg has no authority to pay the debts of the city without a special appropriation therefor; and consequently, those officials whose salaries were omitted from the list of appropriations, have no claim to be paid. This argument might be worth something if the duty of making up the appropriations devolved on the unpaid clerks or officials; but as Mr. Flagg is the unpaid clerk or official for no other purpose but to see that all the necessary appropriations are made by the proper body, it seems rather absurd for him to say that his neglect involves another man's loss. He is the financial executive of the city, for Mayor Westcott does not care to discharge this branch of his duties; and as such he is bound to present every appropriation to the Common Council, and have it passed upon. He now says, I did not do this, and therefore, though the city certainly owes so much to so-and-so, he cannot be paid. Such logic deserves that in case of further difficulty, Flagg should be made to suffer himself for his neglect.

There is no more strict constructionist alive than Flagg in questions involving a clerk's salary, or a newspaper bill; and hence he has gained in certain ill-informed quarters a reputation for honesty. But, strange to say, this feature of his character is singularly changeable. In matters where large amounts are concerned, and Flagg's friends are interested, the country does not contain a more liberal latitudinarian. He will pass over a job of half a million, but make a clerk's family starve by raising some quibble to prevent the payment of his salary. Just so while a public creditor is refused his due, for want of an appropriation, Mr. Flagg usurps control over two millions of county moneys, and which he has no authority whatever, and which ought to be in the hands of the Chamberlain.

The eyes of the public are being opened by the last report from Flagg which showed that the sum required for the year's service exceeded thirteen millions of dollars. Other discoveries remain to be made. The full effect of this million of dollars now lying on deposit in the Mechanics' Bank, and used for stockjobbing purposes by the friends of that institution, is not yet fully appreciated. It is the mis-use of sums of money of this description which enables operators to control the grain market and to keep up the price of flour. Flagg not only lets our tax bill increase, but—from what motive he knows best—assists the operators of Wall street in monopolizing the necessities of life, and contributes largely to protract our present straitened circumstances.

HARD TIMES AND HIGH PRICES.—THE COAL DUTY.—Everybody is complaining of hard times, everybody is suffering from high prices. Coal eight dollars per ton, flour twelve dollars per barrel, wages coming down, employment falling short on all sides, beef, pork and mutton at double the prices of a year or two ago, justify these universal complaints. Hard times are upon us, and prices are high. Superadded to the exorbitant charges on the market for breadstuffs and provisions, our codfish aristocracy find that it goes hard to pay two or three dollars for a ticket to the Opera. In view of things, if such operative managers as Moses H. Grinnell should apply for a benefit, we should like it as nothing more than one of the natural consequences of hard times and high prices. Can't we have a reduction in the price of coal or flour, or pork, or something, to sustain the Opera? Let Mr. Walbridge hurry up his bill before Congress for the repeal of the duty on coal. Not only the poor, but the codfish aristocracy and the Opera depend upon it. Twenty tons of coal go a short way in heating the new Opera House. The last hope of the Opera is the repeal of the duty on coal.

NOT ANSWER.—One of our Washington correspondents speaks of the resolution of Mr. Clingman, proposing a commission from our government to the European belligerents in behalf of peace, as an absurdity. We look upon it here in an entirely different light. We think the resolution by no means absurd, but a sensible and statesmanlike proposition. We know that Russia would receive the commission proposed with respect and attention; and we know, too, that France and England are becoming seriously embarrassed and disheartened at the present and prospective expenses of the war. In view of all this, and all powerful in our moral and commercial influence with both France and England, we are convinced that a peace commission of prudent and sensible men from the United States would meet with marked attention at London and Paris. And the effects of this war upon our financial, commercial and business interests of all kinds are such as would justify, in the eyes of the world, the proposed

## commission as a wise and powerful move on the behalf of peace.

We are only inclined to think that he who believed in would be glad to avail himself of our media on; and with this opinion we hope the Mr. Clingman will urge his resolution upon the House. Even the discussion of the subject in Congress may have its influence in the pacific at end of Europe. Let Mr. Clingman speak the resolution, and we shall be surprised if it does not become a leading topic of conversation among all the cabinet and diplomatic circles of the European continent.

MR. BADGER'S PROPOSED INCREASE OF PAY.—Mr. Badger has introduced a proposition in the Senate for the increase of 10 per cent of the pay of the members of Congress. Very well. Guthrie can spare the money, and an increase of pay might stop a good many of the leakages of Congressional corruption. Considering, too, the dignity of the office and the size and wealth of the country, the President's salary should also be increased to fifty thousand a year; the members of the Cabinet should have at least twelve thousand; but above all, our ministers abroad—especially at London, Paris, and St. Peterburg—should be voted an increase of their salaries to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars a year. To live respectably in their official position, our ministers at London and Paris have, up to this time, been compelled to draw upon their private resources to meet the deficiencies of their salaries. If the government were bankrupt it might be excused, perhaps, in such exactions upon private individuals for public expenses; but Guthrie has a surplus of twenty millions, and ought to pay his legitimate bills, even for an occasional dinner or so. We suggest, therefore, to Mr. Badger, to extend his increase of pay to the President and the Cabinet, and especially to our diplomatic corps. There is no other alternative left for our diplomats; for Marcy has tried the experiment of old clothes, and it has signally failed. Call upon Guthrie to shell out the money.

MISS BROWN'S LECTURE ON SLAVERY.—We publish to-day the lecture of the Reverend Miss Antoinette L. Brown on the slavery question, delivered at the Tabernacle the other evening. Miss Brown is a leader among the women's rights women, and a preacher of the Gospel somewhere in that sparsely settled country, of which Gerrit Smith is the patron. And this calling her away from her parochial duties in the interior down to New York to lecture on slavery shows that the mighty men of the cause are backing out, and the Abolition Society here has been compelled to fall back upon their reserves among the Bloomers. Neither Hale, nor Seward, nor Sumner, nor Chase have been forthcoming. They are evidently frightened at the terrible doings of the Know Nothings, especially in Massachusetts. Giddings, of all the batch, has proved himself a man of pluck. He sees that the anti-slavery societies are in danger of being annihilated by the Know Nothings, and that unless something is done to keep up the agitation here Northern abolition cliques and coteries will soon be laid upon the same shelf with the fossil remains of the old whig and democratic parties and the administration. So Giddings has fired a ray, right and left, in Congress, the first chance, and in the absence of other men of pluck to support him, the courageous advocate of woman's rights, entitled to all the rights of woman, the dignified and handsome Bloomer, the angelic and Reverend Antoinette L. Brown, still rejoicing in "single blessedness," comes to the rescue of Giddings. It is a pity that so fine a person as this feminine divine should be led so far astray by the jack-o'-lantern of abolitionism. Pity that some dashing cavalier of a Southern slaveholder will not undertake to change her views upon this subject. Who knows but that she might be made as amiable and rational on the slavery question as John Mitchell in view of an "Alabama cotton plantation, well stocked with good fat negroes?" Who knows?

## THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Latest News from California and Oregon.

ARRIVAL OF THE PROMETHEUS AT NEW YORK.—CONTINUED IMPRESSION IN BUSINESS.—LACK OF RAIN AT THE MINES.—LOSS OF A WHALSHIP.—MISADVENTURE OF AN EMIGRANT TRAIN BY THE OREGON RAILROAD, ETC., ETC.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 14, 1854.

The steamship Prometheus, from San Juan, Nicaragua, has arrived. She brings California dates to the 24th ult., and 168 passengers.

Our files of California papers contain very little intelligence of general interest.

The commercial advices from San Francisco represent affairs in about the same condition as at the date of our previous advices. It was not anticipated that there would be any material change for the better until the commencement of the new year.

Business at most places in the interior was extremely depressed.

The San Francisco papers record the arrival for the week preceding the departure of the Nicaragua steamer, of three ships only from Atlantic ports, to-wit: The Arcton, on the 16th, and the Conquest, on the 18th, both from New York, and the Fearless on the 19th, from Boston.

The United States ship Susequahanna was to sail from San Francisco for New York on the 24th of December.

The United States steamer Mississippi had arrived at San Francisco, but her day of sailing for an Atlantic port had not been fixed upon.

The San Francisco papers record the loss of the whaling ship City of New Bedford, but those at hand furnish no particulars.

The mining news continues favorable, though the miners were in some localities greatly in want of water, and were anxiously expecting rain, of which less than the average quantity has fallen thus far this season.

Advices from Oregon state that the numerous and powerful tribes of Indians called "Snakes," had commenced war upon the whites, and slaughtered a whole train of immigrants.

The advices from San Juan represent the revolution in Nicaragua as still in progress, but we do not learn that either party has yet achieved any decided advantage.

The British sloop-of-war Vesta, and the steam frigate Termagant, were at Greytown.

The steamship Daniel Webster left here to-day for San Juan.

From the South.

THE SOUTHERN MAIL-STEAMBOATS ON THE POTOMAC RIVER—LOSS OF LIFE ON THE STEAMBOAT GIPSEY, ETC.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 14, 1854.

The steamboats on the Potomac river have resumed their trips, and the Southern mail is now arriving here regularly once more.

Ten lives were lost by the burning of the steamboat Gipsy, running on the Mississippi river. The vessel itself is also an entire loss, with a valuable freight. Fifty bales of cotton on the landing were also destroyed by fire.

Fire at Buffalo.

Buffalo, Dec. 14, 1854.

The distillery of Messrs. Tracott & Thomas, in this city, was destroyed by fire last night. The loss is about \$15,000—insurance \$9,000. Some 4,000 bushels of corn were burned.

From Louisville.

STATE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.—MR. CARPENTER RECOVERING, ETC.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 14, 1854.

A State temperance convention is now in session here, which is numerously attended by delegates from all parts of the State, who are discussing the propriety of

## seminating candidates for the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

The convention nominated Major Geo. W. Williams, wife, of Pearson, for Governor, and Col. James G. Hardy, of Barren, for Lieutenant Governor.

Capt. Cummings has been acquitted at Helena on the charge of murder. The examination of witnesses in this case consumed five days, after which the prosecuting attorney entered a nolle prosequi. He has, however, been re-arrested, and is to be tried on a charge of arson.

Chapin's trial had commenced.

Mr. Carpenter, who was shot by Mr. Perkins a few days since, at Covington, is slowly recovering.

The number of hogs killed here this season, up to this date, amounts to one hundred and ninety-five thousand.

The weather is quite pleasant. In the canal there is but three feet of water.

## Emancipation in the Boston Custom House.

MEETING OF OFFICE-SEKERS—REMOVAL OF WHIGS DEMANDS—THE SPOILS INSISTED ON.

Boston, Dec. 14, 1854.

The democrats of the Twelfth ward of this city met last night, and passed a series of resolutions setting forth that a majority of those employed in the appropriate department of the Custom House were whigs, and doing all they can to pull down the national administration, and that a request which had been made by the ward and county committees for their removal was rejected by the appraisers, Messrs. Allen and Crocker.

The President is therefore called upon to remove these appraisers and appoint true democrats in their place. It was suggested that Fletcher Webster be included with Messrs. Allen and Crocker, but it was concluded that public opinion would be against such proscription of the son of Daniel Webster. It is said that the real trouble is, that "Know Nothingism" has obtained a foothold in the Boston Custom House.

From Washington.

THE WHEELING BRIDGE CASE—THE BREMEN CONSULSHIP.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1854.

In the case of the State of Pennsylvania vs. The Wheeling and Belmont Bridge Co., the argument of the several motions for a writ of sequestration against the corporation for an attachment against its officers, and for a writ of assistance to execute the decree of this court, and for taxation of costs, was continued by the Hon. Verdy Johnson in opposition, and concluded by Edwin M. Stanton, Esq., in support.

John Wolf has ceased to act at St. Louis as Consul for Bremen, and no one will be appointed in his place for the present.

## Heavy Failure at Providence.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 14, 1854.

The liabilities of Messrs. Hill, Carpenter & Co., extensive wool dealers, of this city, do not exceed,